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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/006,757	12/06/2001	Gary L. Miller	82,572	2039

7590 06/02/2004

Office of Counsel, Code 004
Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division
9500 MacArthur Boulevard
West Bethesda, MD 20817-5700

EXAMINER
HO, TAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	2821

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/006,757	MILLER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Tan Ho	2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 6-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 4 and 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 31 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/06/01.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 6, line 5, "said flexible reflectors" should be changed to --said flexible radar reflective panels-- to provide a proper antecedent basis. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pratt et al (US Patent 2,888,675).

Pratt et al disclose, in figure 1, a radar reflective device comprising a radar permeable inflatable shell 2, a plurality of flexible radar reflective panels (5, 6, 7) disposed within the shell, and each of the panels cemented continuously about its periphery to the inner surface of the shell. The patent to Pratt et al also teaches that the device relates to a unitary device adapted to permit of radar indication the location of personnel or equipment afloat at sea, see column 1, lines 15-21.

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4. Claims 1, and 2 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Veazey (US Patent 5,969,660).

Veazey discloses, in figure 1, a radar reflective device comprising a radar permeable inflatable cylindrical shell 2, a plurality of flexible radar reflective panels (224,226,228) disposed within the shell.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Snow et al (US Patent 6,570,545).

Snow et al disclose, in figure 1, a radar reflective device comprising a radar permeable inflatable shell 11, a plurality of flexible radar reflective panels (16,19) disposed within the shell, and a plurality of support filaments 17 cooperate with a plurality support 20 to fasten radar reflective panels to the inner surface of the shell 11.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 4 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Claims 6-10 are allowed.

Claims 6 and 10 recite a radar permeable foam disposed within each of the reflective cavities which are formed by a plurality of flexible radar reflective panels. The patents to Snow et al, Pratt et al, and Veazey do not teach this limitation.

8. The patents to Anselmi, Rabenhorst et al, Bjordal et al, Ohlsen, Alexeff et al, Piri et al are cited as of interest showing the antenna similar to that disclosed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tan Ho whose telephone number is (571) 272-1822.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


TAN HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER